GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2877
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
SOCIO- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NER
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Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified specified thrust areas for the socio-economic development in North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/package provided by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any plan for the development/extension of road and railway network in this region;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has also any specific strategy to develop domestic and international tourism in this region; and

(g) if so, the details thereof;

Answer

MINISTER, MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R.KYNDIAH)

(a),(b)&(c): Recognizing the problems of infrastructural bottleneck, connectivity, communication and basic services, special attention is given to the socio-economic development of the region. The Approach to the Tenth Plan spelt out the objectives of economic growth with enhancement of human well-being through adequate level of food consumption, access to basic services, expansion of economic and social opportunities, reduction of disparities, etc. States of NER have accordingly identified the priority areas in their Plans in the light of the objectives laid down in the Approach to the Tenth Plan. Further, since 1998-99 the Central Ministries/Departments, except those specifically exempted, are required to allocate 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the development of the NE Region. The unspent balance of this amount accrues to the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) which is being utilized for bridging the socio-economic infrastructure in the Region.

(d)to(g):
(i) Road:- The Government has formulated the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme (SARDP-NE) for the NER. Phase-A of this Programme, comprising improvement of 1310 km length of National Highways, state Roads and GS Roads at an estimated cost of Rs.4618 crore has been approved for implementation and Phase-B, comprising 6306 km roads, has been approved for preparation of Detailed Project Reports.

(ii) Railways:- As regard to the development of railways network is concerned, 6 new line and 5 gauge conversion works are in progress providing connectivity to capital cities, upper Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and removing transshipment points due to gauge conversion. The on-going works under different categories are as under:

Projects which will provide connectivity to capital cities

(i) Kumarghat-Agartala NL

(ii) Harmuti-Itanagar (Alternate alignment Bedati-Itanagar is being surveyed) NL

(iii) Jiribam-Imphal (Tupul) NL

Megabridge project connecting North and South bank

(i) Rail-cum Road bridge at Bogibeel near Dibrugarh.

Other Works

(i) Gauge Conversion of New Jalpaiguri/Siliguri-New Bongaigoan (linked branch lines).

(ii) Senchaa-Sllghat (56 kms) & Haibargaon-Mairabari of Lumbding-Dibrugarh including linked branches.

(iii) Gauge Conversion of Lumding-Silchar and extn. from Badarpur to Baraigram.

(iv) New line from New Maynaguri-Jogighopa.

(v) New line from Dudhnoi to Depa (land not made available so far).

(vi) Gauge conversion of Katkhal-Bairabhi.

(vii) Rangia-Murkongselek GC along-with linked fingers.

(viii) Tourism:- As per the information received from Ministry of Tourism, the perspective and vision is to develop North-East as a unique sustainable eco-tourism destination with emphasis on the 'alert independent traveller' with the objective of unlocking the three tourism pillars of the North East- Nature, Culture & Religion so as to provide a competitive advantage to the Region.